

## Student Handout: Rising Sea Levels

**Directions:** In the spaces below, jot down theories, facts and other information you believe answer the question. Be prepared to use your notes in a class discussion. Working in your group, you will make action plans to aid the United States in adjusting to these rising levels with a minimum of disruption to daily life.

1. Do the researchers believe that sea level is actually rising? Why or why not?
2. On what empirical evidence do the researchers base their conclusions? Do you consider this to be valid science? Explain.
3. Do the researchers make definite predictions about rising sea levels? Do they give definite causes on which to base their predictions?
4. Describe the changes to the east coast of the U.S. if the predicted maximum rise in sea level over the next century is realized. If the trend continues, where will the eastern coast shoreline be in 200 years? Illustrate this geographic change on a map. (See at **Maps of the United States** in Information Sources for an outline map of the U.S.)
5. How will the population of the United States change if such rises in sea level occur? How will you be affected?
6. Besides changes at or near the shoreline, predict how sea level rise will affect the following: inland areas, including changes in climate and weather patterns; the production of goods and services, from manufacturing to farming; and, the quality of life over time.